

# County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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June 30, 2014

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From:

Philip L. Browning

Director, Department of Children and Family Services

Marvin Southard, D.S.W.

Director, Department of Mental Health

## QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE RESIDENTIALLY BASED SERVICES REFORM DEMONSTRATION PROJECT APPROVED BY BOARD ON JULY 6, 2010

The following is a report on the status of the Los Angeles County Residentially Based Services (RBS) pilot demonstration project with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). RBS contracts were executed on December 2, 2010. These contracts were extended for a 12-month period through December 1, 2014. The contracts were amended to eliminate the 10-month capitation rate for residential care.

#### **Current Enrollment and Placement Status**

RBS is a pilot combining enhanced mental health services and family finding in a short term intensive residential care, with the same service delivery team providing continued mental health and social services to the youth and family while in community care. There are three RBS contractors providing Countywide RBS services: Five Acres, Hathaway-Sycamores, and Hillsides. We currently (as of 5/31/2014) have a total of 70 children/youth, ages 6-18, enrolled in the demonstration project; 46 of the 70 children

are enrolled in residential care while 24 are enrolled in community care. Tables 1 and 2 below show the RBS enrollment delineated by agency and gender respectively.

Table 1. RBS Current Enrollment as of 5/31/2014

RBS Provider Agency	Residential Care	Community Care	Agency Total
Five Acres	18	10	28
Hathaway-Sycamores	12	5	17
Hillsides	16	9	25
Total	46	24	70

Table 2. RBS Enrollment by Gender\*

RBS Provider Agency	Female	Male	Agency Total
Five Acres	0	28	28
Hathaway-Sycamores	0	17	17
Hillsides	10	15	25
Grand Total	10	60	70

<sup>\*</sup>The RBS programs at Five Acres and Hathaway-Sycamores only serve male youth while Hillsides serve both male and female youth.

#### Status of All RBS Youth in Community

24 youth have transitioned to community care, of these youth:

- 14 youth are home of parent (HOP);
- 5 youth are placed with a relative;
- 2 youth are placed with a Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM);
- 1 youth is placed in an Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) home; and
- 2 youth are placed in D-Rate foster homes.

The average length of stay in residential care for youth that transitioned to community care during the current reporting quarter was 9 months.

The Los Angeles County Residentially Based Services (RBS) Pilot Demonstration Project has served 230 youth since inception. As of May 31, 2014, <u>84</u> RBS youth have successfully graduated from the Pilot Demonstration Project while; <u>76</u> youth exited RBS prior to graduating. There were <u>70</u> youth that remained actively enrolled in the program with <u>46</u> youth in residential care and <u>24</u> youth in the community.

#### Youth in RBS Placement Over 10 Months

We currently have a total of 70 children/youth ages 6 to 18 enrolled in the demonstration project. A total of 14 youth remain in RBS residential care over 10 months as of

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May 31, 2014. During the current period of reporting, barriers cited for transitioning RBS youth into community care are similar to our last period of reporting:

- Difficulty in locating alternative placements in a lower level of care because of youth's unstable behavior, chronic substance abuse issues, delinquency, and AWOL history;
- Identifying and approving the homes of prospective relative caregivers;
- Locating a placement in city and/or area that the child prefers;
- RBS participants' unwillingness/hesitation to move forward with the identified transitional plan;
- RBS youth's failed placement in community care due to caregiver's unwillingness/inability to continue working with the RBS youth;
- Youth's lack of life long permanency connections with individuals willing to explore placement;
- Youth's struggle in reversing and healing from the effects of institutionalized behaviors making it difficult to match youth with willing caregivers in a lower level of care; and
- Lack of specialized placement resources such as Treatment Foster Care (TFC).

#### **Interventions**

- DCFS managers coordinate efforts to expedite the clearance process for prospective relative caregivers;
- RBS Program staff and RBS case-carrying regional Children's Social Workers (CSWs) and Supervising Children's Social Workers (SCSWs) are working together to transition RBS youth from residential care to community care;
- Plan of Care Reviews are conducted with RBS Providers on a monthly basis to examine overall treatment/transition goals and outcomes;
- DCFS RBS team conducts regular case review teleconferences with DCFS managers, front line regional staff (CSW, SCSW and ARA) and contracted providers staff (Therapist, Child and Family Specialist and Parent Partner) to discuss selected RBS youth's progress and transition plan at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> month of residential care; and
- DCFS RBS team, RBS agency administrators, and UC Davis Resource Center for Family Focused Practice work in collaboration to provide necessary trainings to better equip RBS staff in working with youth and their families.

### <u>Total Cost for Residential and Community Care</u> (December 2010 to May 2014)

As of May 31, 2014, the total cost of residential care was \$20,128,249 \*while the total cost of community care was \$4,490,378; the total RBS program cost was \$24,618,627.

<sup>\*</sup>May 2014 expenditure figures are projected based on payments made in April 2014.

#### **Early Periodic Screening Diagnostics Treatment (EPSDT)**

The estimated EPSDT cost of the two year RBS pilot demonstration is \$7,905,956 in Federal EPSDT funds and \$436,300 in DMH Katie A. funds for the County EPSDT requirement. The following table shows EPSDT spending for the first quarter of the current contract year.

\*Table 3. RBS EPSDT Spending:

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RBS Provider Agency	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Agency Total			
Five Acres	\$111,518	\$144,144	\$125,375	\$381,037			
Hathaway-Sycamores	\$116,191	\$121,441	\$116,191	\$353,823			
Hillsides	\$ 66,386	\$ 64,756	\$ 43,247	\$174,389			
Total	\$294,095	\$330,341	\$284,813	\$909,249			

<sup>\*</sup> This table contains EPSDT claims for the quarter covering December, 2013 through February, 2014. These claims were extracted from the DMH Integrated System on June 1, 2014 in an effort to allow EPSDT claims to be posted in the DMH Integrated System. This new methodology will ensure that representative EPSDT costs are compiled for each RBS provider.

We will continue to prepare and submit quarterly reports every 90 days for the duration of the RBS Pilot Demonstration Project, including the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), RBS Contracts, and RBS Community Services portion of the Wraparound Contract.

If you have questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin of DCFS Board Relations at (213) 351-5530. Thank you.

PLB:CS JH:lm

c: Chief Executive Officer County Counsel Board Executive Officer